

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW PUMA FROM LOWER CALIFORNIA.

BY J. C. PHILLIPS.

In January, 1912, I received from Mr. E. W. Funcke the skin and skull of an adult male puma from Lower California. The locality is Calmalli, a small place at about latitude $28^{\circ} 40'$.

The small size and round shape of this skull immediately struck the eye, and more careful comparison shows the form it represents to be deserving of specific rank.

The puma is probably a rare animal throughout the entire length of the peninsula, but I am informed by Mr. W. W. Brown, Jr., that it occurs even south to the vicinity of Cape St. Lucas. The form being undescribed, I name it:

***Felis improcera* sp. nov.**

Type, adult male, skin and skull, M. C. Z. No. 12,704, from Calmalli, Lower California; collected September, 1911, by E. W. Funcke.

General characters.—Size small, much smaller than *F. browni* Merriam, of the Colorado bottom, with teeth relatively and actually larger.

Color.—Dark fawn color (Ridgway), darker along the back where it is mixed with dusky tipped hairs. General color less reddish than in *F. azteca*. Tail bicolored, ending in a conspicuous black tip, the hairs of which are three centimeters long.

Cranial characters.—Skull very small. General shape rounder and less elongate than in either *F. browni* or *F. azteca*. Nasals shorter and narrower, and alar bulge very large and much inflated, anterior nares small and round and upper part of ascending branch of premaxilla facing more forward than in other forms. Inferior lateral prolongation of nasals thin and short, and entirely internal to maxillary process.

Cranial measurements.—Basal length, 150 millimeters; palatal length, 72; palatal length from gnathion to tip of hamular process, 105; length of nasals, 55; zygomatic width, 124; least width of nasals (middle part), 14; width of anterior nares, 27; length of anterior nares, 31; length of

lower tooth row from back of first molar to front of canine, 69; length of upper tooth row, 60; length of ramus of lower jaw, from condyle to base of incisor 1, 125; width between postorbital processes of parietals, 68; greatest width of palate outside tooth row, 76.

Measurements in the flesh were not taken.